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Above: JSC's Glenn Lutz of Engineering's Crew and Thermal Systems Division explains space walking tools used by the astronauts during missions to open house guests. Right: Visitors relive history the historic Apollo-era control room in Bldg. 30. The largest estimated crowd was on hand Saturday, Aug. 23 for JSC's Open House. Visitors came from all regions of the world including England, Mexico, Canada, Germany and Australia. American visitors from coast to coast also came to the open house. Twenty buildings and facilities featuring more than 100 exhibits and demonstrations were open to help visitors "experience" human space flight and associated technology. Hundreds of NASA volunteers were on hand to help visitors understand JSC's role in making it a reality.

JSC Photos 97-10711 and 97-10712 by Robert Markowitz and Steve Candler



Open house pleases crowd, sets records

August weather cooperated with organizers this year and the largest crowd ever estimated attended JSC's Open House.

With a theme of "Space...for all people," JSC opened its doors wide to the public from as far away as Australia for a behind the scenes look at the center. Twenty buildings and facilities featuring more than 100 exhibits and demonstrations were open to help visitors "experience" human space flight and associated technology.

"The volunteers did a fantastic job of explaining things," said a visitor from Missouri. "You could tell they were very excited about the work they're doing. The showed a lot of products that I didn't realize started from the research going on here."

Hundreds of NASA volunteers were on hand to discuss their favorite topic—human space flight—and to help visitors understand JSC's role in making it a reality. Visitors came from all regions of the world including England, Mexico, Canada, Germany and Australia. The Australians, who were vacationing in New Orleans, read about the open house on the Internet and hopped a plane for the visit to the space center. American visitors from coast to coast came to the open house.

Nearly every facet of space flight was featured in the line-up of displays and demonstrations. Mission operations, shuttle and space station training and simulations, robotics and virtual reality, manufacturing and fabrication, spacecraft propulsion and energy systems, space communications, life support and space suits, and a wealth of scientific investigations were included.

Visitors were able to tour the new Mission Control Center and relive history in an exciting film presentation in the historic Apollo-era control room.

"Everything has vastly improved in the last 20 years because of NASA," wrote a visitor from Texas on comment cards. "The space program made me proud to be an American," wrote another Texas visitor.

Guests were able to land a simulated shuttle, dock with the space station and try out a number of robotic arms and hands. Visitors also were able to manipulate space tools and test shuttle communications.

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Diverse mission studies Earth, station elements

By Kyle Herring

Discovery is safely back on Earth after 12 days in space studying Earth's atmosphere and testing a Japanese robotic arm serving as a prototype for one that will fly on the International Space Station.

After the Aug. 18 landing was waved off because of the threat of late-developing ground fog at Kennedy Space Center, *Discovery* ended its 23rd mission in space at 6:08 a.m. CDT Aug. 19 with touchdown at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility.

With it, *Discovery* returned enough data on the Earth's atmosphere and ozone layer to keep scientists busy for years trying to corre-

late it with that gathered by high flying aircraft and weather balloons to better understand the changes and countermeasures that could protect it. According to Commander Curt Brown, the flight was much more than it had set out to be.

"This was a very diverse mission. It originally started out as a Mission to Planet Earth where we studied the Earth's atmosphere and how we as humans are affecting the Earth and how nature is creating our environment," he said to family and friends at Ellington Field during the crew return ceremony. "But we added a lot of other things from astronomy to technical research to developing things for space station

and its operations and deployment. It's amazing how many folks it takes to get us into orbit and we really do appreciate all the hard work."

The CRISTA-SPAS satellite was released from the shuttle's robotic arm about seven hours after *Discovery's* launch on Aug. 7. Payload Commander Jan Davis used the remote manipulator system to grapple and deploy the CRISTA-SPAS for its nine-day free flight mission.

The German-built satellite, flown as part of a cooperative program between NASA and the German Space Agency DARA, was retrieved Aug. 16 after for more than 200 hours of studies of the middle atmosphere using three telescopes and

four spectrometers to measure infrared radiation. Data gathered will help investigators from 15 countries understand how tracer "filaments" in the stratosphere contribute to the transport of ozone and chemical compounds that affect distribution.

"It was an ideal mission for me," Davis told the crowd at Ellington. "An ideal mission for me includes first of all, science. We did a lot of different kinds of science and I was really excited to be a part of that effort. I am looking forward to seeing what new discoveries were made. This was a very complex flight and everyone had to give 110 or 150 percent to pull it off. They did."

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Low lecturer says working together helps cut waste

By Kelly Humphries

Businesses and governments need to act more like families when it comes to belt tightening, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts told JSC managers last week in the second Low Leadership lecture.

John Sharp, who took office as Texas' 35th state comptroller in 1991, used anecdotes from his efforts to eliminate waste and fraud from the Texas food stamp and Medicaid systems and his time as manager of the Texas Lottery and comptroller to illustrate his point Aug. 14 for 300 managers at the

Gilruth Center.

"The real problem with any organization, whether it's in the private sector or the public sector, is that it is sometimes difficult to make big organizations act like a family," Sharp said. "When a family has to cut back and is a little bit short on money, the family doesn't always get to say 'I'm going to give myself a raise and take care of this.' They have to find different ways to prune back."

Sharp set up the Texas Performance Review, an ongoing audit of

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John Sharp

Blood drive nets gallons

JSC employees once again provided a valuable service to their fellow workers and the community during the August JSC Blood Drive.

St. Luke's Hospital went away with 372 pints of blood from the two-day event held earlier this month - only two pints short of last year's record-breaking 374 pints.

"A big 'thank you' to JSC civil servants and contractors for their demonstrated efforts to help their co-workers and the community," said Amy Mendez, one of the coordinators of the event. "We appreciate

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